

the hoist, the sheave (Sc) mounted to the container suspension means, the wire-winding drum (Da) for hoisting container, the wire-winding drum (Db) for counter weight use, the wire rope (Wa) for hoisting container, the wire rope (Wb) being wound by the wire-winding drum (Db), and the counter weight (Co) attached to the front end of the wire rope (Wb) .

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IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the ABSTRACT as originally filed with the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

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--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for manufacturing molten metal at a low cost, a favorable energy balance and high productivity by melt-reducing a metal oxide and/or a metal hydroxide such as iron ore. In the method, at least the metal oxide and/or the metal hydroxide, such as iron ore, is preliminarily mixed or preliminarily mixed and granulated, or preliminarily mixed and molded, with a carbonaceous material to prepare a mixture of raw materials. The mixture of raw materials is preliminarily reduced in a prereduction furnace, such as a rotary hearth or a rotary kiln to attain an average metallization degree of the metal oxide

and/or the metal hydroxide from 5 to 55%. The mixture is then charged to a melting furnace for metal smelting, wherein the mixture of the raw materials is melted and finally reduced using the carbonaceous material as the reducing agent and using the combustion heat of the carbonaceous material and of carbon monoxide generated in the furnace as the major heat source.--

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